

Message Text

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14

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 EB-11 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8100

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PASS COMMERCE

FOR EB/ CBA/ BP

E. O. 11652: N/ A DECLASS 7-4-75

TAGS: BEXP, EIND, KS

SUBJECT: BOOK PIRACY (VIII)

REF: A. SEOUL 3207 B. SEOUL 3383

1. COMATT CALLED MAY 29 ON CHOUNG, CHIN SOOK, PRESIDENT OF EULYOO PUBLISHING COMPANY AND ALSO PRESIDENT OF KOREAN PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION, TO SEEK HIS ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE REGARDING BOOK PIRACY.

2. CHOUNG STATED THAT BOOK PIRACY WAS COMMON IN KOREAN BUT WAS LIMITED TO SMALL FIRMS. HE WAS AWARE OF DAMAGE WHICH IT WAS DOING TO THE IMAGE OF KOREA ABROAD, SINCE HE HAD BEEN REMINDED ABOUT IT BY AMERICAN PROFESSORS DURING A TRIP TO THE U. S. ALSO, HIS OWN SON, NAK Y. CHOUNG, WHO IS WITH ADDISON WESLEY IN BOSTON, NEVER FAILS TO CHASTISE HIM WHENEVER HE VISITS KOREA.

3. HE HAD URGED, ON AND OFF, VARIOUS OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND PUBLIC INFORMATION THAT KOREA OUGHT TO JOIN UNIVERSAL COPYRIGHT CONVENTION. IN 1968, FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR PUBLICATIONS WAS TRANSFERRED FROM MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TO MCPI, HE SOUGHT TO PERSUADE AN AD HOC PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE IN

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FAVOR OF UCC BUT FOUND HIMSELF A MINORITY OF ONE.

4. EULYOO PUBLISHING COMPANY HAS HAD AUTHORIZED TRANSLATIONS DONE AND PUBLISHED, AND ROYALTIES WERE VERY LOW, ONLY \$20 IN ONE CASE. CHOUNG THOUGHT THAT THIS SHOULD BE A REGULAR PRACTICE FOR KOREA TO FOLLOW. INDEED, HE WAS NOT NEGOTIATING WITH TIME- LIFE BOOKS FOR A \$100,000 JOINT VENTURE TO TRANSLATE AND PUBLISH THEIR BOOKS. TIME- LIFE SCIENCE SERIES, HOWEVER, HAS ALREADY BEEN TRANSLATED AND PUBLISHED WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION, AND AN ATTEMPT IS NOW BEING MADE TO SETTLE THIS OUT OF COURT.

5. COMATT URGED CHOUNG TO SEEK DOMESTIC ROKG LEGISLATION TO PROTECT RIGHTS OF AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS, INCLUDING THOSE OF AUTHORIZED REPRINTS AND TRANSLATIONS. HE POINTED OUT THAT PROPOSED JOINT VENTURE WITH TIME- LIFE BOOKS REQUIRES SUCH PROTECTION.

6. CHOUNG READILY AGREED THAT ROKG OUGHT TO PROTECT THE AUTHORIZED REPRINTING OF FOREIGN BOOK IN KOREA. HE IMMEDIATELY CALLED HIS MANAGER, HONG GUN- PYO, TO SIT IN MEETING, AND PROMISED THAT HONG WOULD COLLABORATE WITH SELECTED ROKG OFFICIALS AND PERHAPS SEEK HELP FROM EMBASSY IN DRAFTING APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION.
HABIB

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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